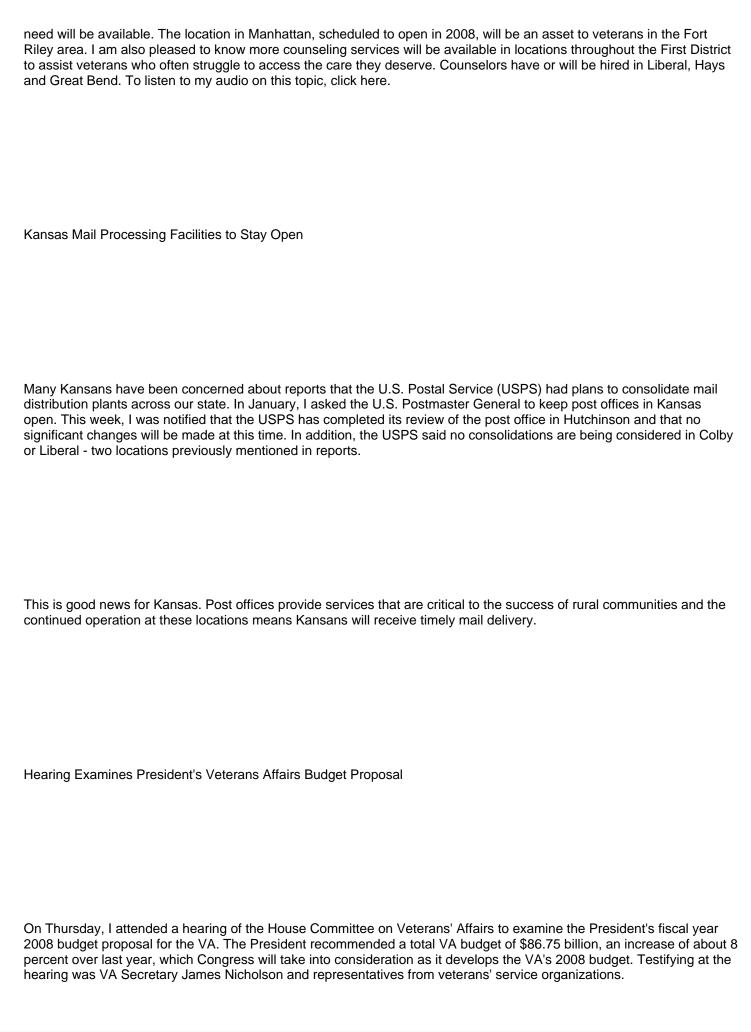
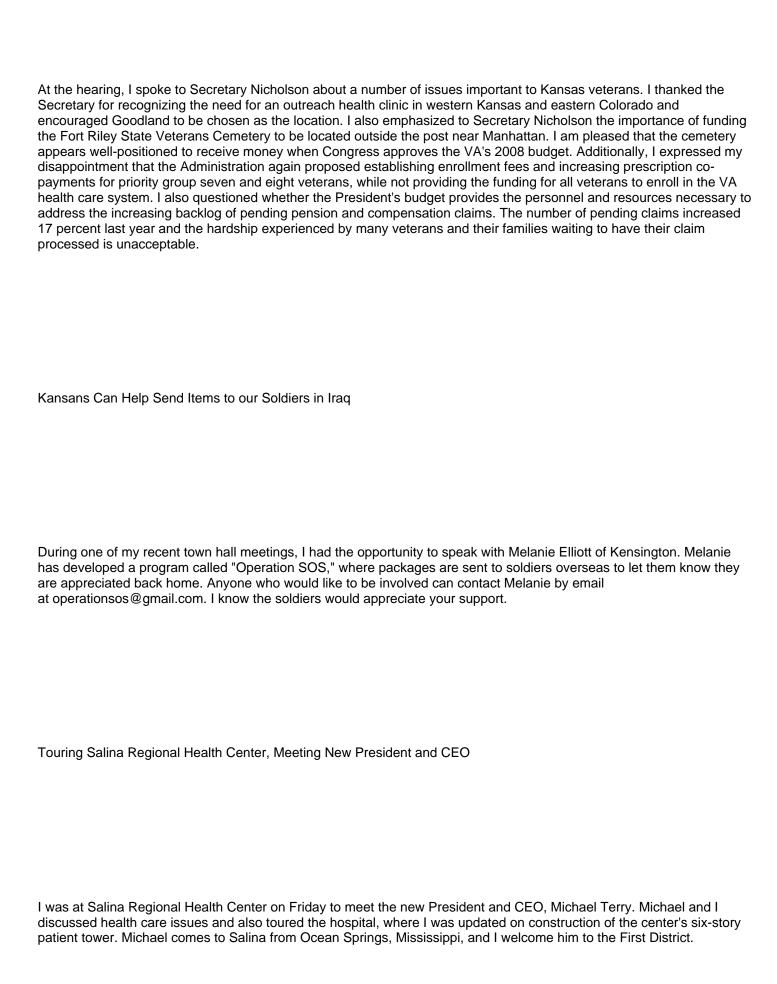
2/12/2007 This Week in Congress This Week in Congress February 12, 2007 Dear Friend, Welcome to "This Week in Congress." This week is National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans week. This morning en route back to Washington, D.C., I stopped by the Colmery-O'Neil Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Topeka to visit with veterans and thank them for their service. I hope you find this newsletter useful. Kansas Veterans to Have Improved Access to Mental Health Services I received word from the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), James Nicholson, this week that Manhattan will be the site of a new vet center and that additional counseling services will be provided in several First

As more veterans seek mental health care following service overseas, this announcement means the critical care they

District locations. Congress established the vet center program in the late 1970s to aid Vietnam veterans experiencing readjustment problems. Currently, the only vet center in Kansas is located in Wichita. At vet centers, counselors and outreach specialists provide services at no cost to combat veterans, their families and the families of soldiers who die on

active duty.





Continuing the First District Listening Tour
This week, I visited Leoti and Scott City. Click here to stay up-to-date on other tour stops still being scheduled.
In the Office
Brigadier General George Harris, Deputy Commanding General of the 89th Regional Readiness Command in Wichita, was in to brief me on military transformation and a number of other issues affecting the Army Reserve, including support for equipment and soldier benefits. I also joined General Harris and others at the Kansas Department of the Reserve Officers Association breakfast. Dr. Edwin Robinson, President of MidAmerica Nazarene University, was in with other representatives of the University, including Dwight Douglas, Dr. Frank Moore and Nancy Robinson of Olathe, to explain their plans for a graduate-level teacher education program in rural Kansas.
Kansas members of the Peace Alliance, Annette Karr of McPherson and Jon Huber of South Hutchinson, were in the office to discuss legislation creating a U.S. Department of Peace dedicated to providing nonviolent solutions to domestic and international conflict. Dr. Keith Phillips of Florence was in the office to update me on residential treatment and transitional programs for young adults at Morning Star Ranch. Doug Cook of Olathe and Stan Peterson of Topeka were in with the American Institute of Architects to discuss energy efficiency legislation as it relates to building design. Blake West of Overland Park and Mark Farr of Nickerson were in the office representing the Kansas National Educators Association to share suggestions on how to improve No Child Left Behind.

Eric Lund of Salina stopped by to share what Veris Technologies is doing in the precision agriculture field, specifically with carbon sensing. Danny Gillum and Michael Ahern of Dodge City Community College were in to talk about the Safe Schools Program for Kansas. Jacquelyn Cline of Milford was in Washington, D.C., this week with the Congressional Youth Leadership Council educational program to learn more about Congress. Bob Timmons of Fredonia and Ken McCauley of White Cloud were in the office to share the National Corn Growers reaction to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2007 Farm Bill Proposal.
George Webb, Executive Director of the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs, from Topeka came by to discuss the progress being made on the proposed Fort Riley State Veterans Cemetery. Raymond Rhodd of Topeka was in with the Kansas Military Order of the Purple Heart to convey support for funding for VA health care and improving veterans' benefits.
In my office this week for a tour of the United States Capitol were Kevin and Cindy Guffey of Hutchinson with their children, Kaylee, Avery, Landri and Joel. Also in this week were Mark, Mary and Meredith Koss of Haddam to visit Mike Koss, who is currently interning in my Washington, D.C., office.
Very truly yours,
Jerry